

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY  
BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

In the Matter of:

THE TARIFF FILING OF JOHNSON	)	
COUNTY GAS COMPANY, INC. TO	)	CASE NO.
OFFER SPECIAL CHARGES AND	)	97-527
RULES	)	

O R D E R

On November 21, 1997, Johnson County Gas Company ("Johnson County") filed a proposed tariff to establish special charges and to make tariff language revisions to bring it into compliance with Commission regulations. By Order issued January 14, 1998, the Commission suspended the proposed tariff until June 19, 1998. The Commission issued a request for information, to which Johnson County responded on June 1, 1998.

After reviewing the record and being otherwise sufficiently advised, the Commission finds that:

1. Johnson County's Original Sheet No. 2, as revised in its response of June 1, 1998, should be approved in part. The following Special Charges are approved with modifications as indicated:

- a. The proposed \$26 collection fee for unpaid bills should be approved.
- b. The proposed \$20 read out meter charge should be approved.
- c. The proposed \$25 turn on meter charge should be approved for all customers; Johnson County cannot discriminate by charging this fee only to renters.

d. The proposed turn off meter charge per customer request should be approved at the level of \$21, which is the amount supported in the Special Charges Cost Schedule. The tariff sheet set out a fee of \$31, which may have been a typographical error.

2. The other special charges listed on Original Sheet No. 2 should be denied without prejudice for Johnson County to re-file. In any future filings which seek approval of these charges, Johnson County should include the following information in its Special Charge Cost Schedule:

a. Consistent cost support for transportation expenses. For example, Johnson County explained in its response of June 1, 1998 that differences in transportation expenses could be explained by the type of equipment used. The Special Charges Cost Schedule, however, showed expenses of both \$5 and \$10 for use of a pick-up truck.

b. Use of clerical labor should be explained as to the time involved and what tasks are performed.

c. Field expense involving labor should be checked for time actually involved in completing tasks. Specifically, there is a discrepancy between the two cost schedules filed regarding the amount of time necessary for completing tasks for the reread meter charge (15 minutes in the filing of November 21, 1998 with an associated expense of \$10 versus an assumed 40 minutes for one man being paid \$15 per hour at an expense of \$10 in the filing of June 1, 1998). Similar discrepancies in time and associated expenses are contained in the special charges for covering returned checks and checking for leaks.

d. Use of both clerical and field labor should be explained in the returned check charge, as well as the necessity for including transportation expense. Traditionally, returned check charges as approved for other utilities have consisted only of expenses involving bank fees and clerical expenses.

e. More extensive explanation of the necessity for a meter tap fee for commercial customers, including the sizes of meters and what cost will be involved for customers with larger meters.

3. Proposed Original Sheet No. 3, as modified in Johnson County's filing of June 1, 1998, should be approved.

4. Proposed Original Sheet No. 4 should be approved with the following modifications:

a. In the Customers Discontinuance of Service section, the second line of the second paragraph should be modified to read "the utility may, **pursuant to 807 KAR 5:006, Section 12(3)**, charge the applicant . . . ."

b. Applications for Service section, add the following sentence paragraph: **"Proper notification of disconnection due to fraudulent information will be given in accordance with 807 KAR 5:006, Section 14."**

5. Proposed Original Sheet No. 5, as modified in Johnson County's June 1, 1998 response, should be approved.

6. Proposed Original Sheet No. 6 should be approved.

7. Proposed Original Sheet No. 7, as modified in Johnson County's June 1, 1998 response, should be approved.

8. Proposed Original Sheet No. 8, as modified in Johnson County's June 1, 1998 response, should be approved except that the last line on the page should be deleted. This line was apparently inserted in error.

9. Proposed Original Sheet No. 9, which was supplied in Johnson County's June 1, 1998 response, should be approved.

10. Johnson County's compliance filing, which should be filed no later than 30 days after the date of this Order, should also contain its Gas Cost Recovery provision and its bill format.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED that:

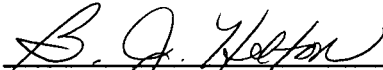
1. Johnson County's proposed tariff revisions and special charges are approved in part and denied in part as set out herein, on and after the date of this Order.

2. Within 30 days of the date of this Order, Johnson County shall file its tariff in compliance with the findings contained herein.

3. Johnson County shall observe the guidelines contained herein in future filings for approval of any of the special charges that are denied in this Order.

Done at Frankfort, Kentucky, this 19th day of June, 1998.

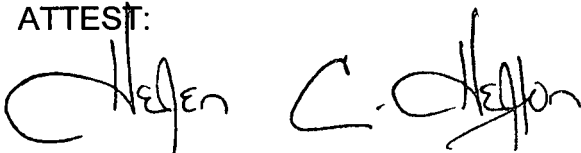
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